



John Reich Journal

Volume 21 / Issue 2

July 2011

JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues\$25.00
 Life Membership\$625.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: Newly discovered JRI4 Bust Dime.

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Official publication of the
John Reich Collectors Society

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Editors' Comments

Welcome to the pre-ANA issue of the John Reich Journal. The annual meeting of the society will be held on Wednesday August, 17 at 8AM in room 6 of the Stephens Convention Center. The educational presentation for this year will be given by Richard Meaney. He will be talking about the Capped Bust Half Dime remarriages and cuds. Richard is an advanced collector and student of the half dime series. He will have wonderful photos of many of the rarest remarriages and cuds to illustrate his talk. I'm sure everyone will be entertained with his informative talk on the half dimes. Speaking of the half dimes, Steve Crain has presented the latest half dime census in this issue of the journal. I hope you find his work as interesting as I have.

The census information presented in the journal is one of the most important and interesting projects we present to the membership. We are, however, dependent on the membership to provide the information included in the census. We cannot do it without your help! Steve has compiled the information sent to him by member collectors for the enjoyment of the society. We are thankful for the participation. Now it is time for the dime collectors to submit their census information for inclusion in the next issue. We have a new dime census keeper. Charlie Horning decided that he could no longer continue as our census keeper and David Quint has graciously offered to take over the job. His contact information is included at the end of the editor's notes. Please send your information to him as soon as possible to be included in the next issue. I hope to put out another issue before the end of the year, so get busy with your submissions.

During the annual meeting in Chicago we will also be having an auction to benefit the society. Richard Meaney has compiled a complete collection of the John Reich Journals including the rare first issue. This will be auctioned during the meeting with the proceeds going into the club's treasury. Ed Price has also donated autographed copies of the sale of his dime and quarter eagle collection by Heritage in 2008. This collection is the finest ever to have been compiled, and I doubt that it could be duplicated again. There is additional information included in the cataloging of the collection concerning the shared use of the reverse dies between the dimes and quarter eagles. Ed authored a wonderful article about interdenominational die clashes in whole number 27, January 1995 of the JRJ. Should anyone have something else they would like to donate for the auction you can bring it to the meeting.

During the annual meeting we will elect a new slate of officers. If you have any nominations please be prepared to submit them at the meeting. Elections will follow the call for nominations. We will also announce the new HOF committee for the

following year. This year's committee consisted of Richard Meaney, W. David Perkins, Jim Matthews, and Bradley Karoleff. We accepted nominations from the membership for inclusion in the hall in both the veteran and modern categories. After tabulation of our votes the inductees for this year are Ard W. Browning in the veteran category and Jules Reiver for the modern category.

We did not have a vote for the Jules Reiver award for the best article as volume 21 of the journal has not been completed. As you may remember, Edgar Souders was voted the award for volume 20 of the journal last year. There will be a ballot in the next issue of the journal this fall for voting.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the convention in Chicago. There will be many opportunities to attend educational presentations at not only individual club meetings, but also the Numismatic Theatre presentations given by the ANA. Please take time to review the schedule at the ANA's website (money.org) to plan your time at the convention. The ANA convention is the year's best opportunity to learn more about your hobby for only the investment of your time. The presentations are free making the annual convention the best deal in numismatics. As a sideline, you will also be able to shop the bourse for new coins for your collections. See you there!

NOTICE

Bust Dime Census information is now being solicited for inclusion in the next issue of the **John Reich Journal**.

Please email your complete inventory listing
(Including ALL duplicates and die states)
of your Bust Dimes dated 1796-1837
or any questions to:

David Quint at dimecensus@yahoo.com

Or, mail hard copies to:

**David Quint
12205 Vista Lane
Miami, FL 33156**

Please respond promptly to ensure inclusion of your collection in this Census.



Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the John Reich Collectors Society

Stephen A. Crain

At 8:02 AM, on Wednesday, August 11, 2010, the 25th annual meeting of the John Reich Collectors Society was convened in the Gardner Room of the Sheraton Inn at the Hynes Convention Center, during the 2010 American Numismatic Association Summer Convention in Boston, Massachusetts. A total of forty (40) officers, members, and guests were present.

Bob Fritsch, Assistant General Chairman of the ANA convention, offered a greeting and welcome to all present.

President David J. Davis brought the meeting to order and provided an encouraging update on his personal health prognosis. We all wish David a complete and speedy recovery. President Davis then introduced the current slate of officers at the dais, followed by an introduction of all members and guests present.

The reading of the minutes of the previous (2009) annual meeting was waived, as the minutes will appear in a future issue of the John Reich Journal.

A report of the Nominating Committee for election of a slate of officers for the 2010/2011 year was presented, with the following names placed into nomination:

David J. Davis – President
Bradley S. Karoleff – Vice President
W. David Perkins – Treasurer
Stephen A. Crain – Secretary
Dr. Glenn Peterson – Director
Jim Matthews – Director
Richard Meaney – Director

Nominations were then opened to the floor, and seeing none, the proposed slate of officers was voted upon and passed, with no dissenting votes or comments.

There was no Treasurer's Report given, with simply a general comment given by Treasurer Perkins regarding new projects and plans to raise additional capital.

Secretary Crain announced that the winner of the 2010 Jules Reiver Literary Award was Edgar Souders, for his article "Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets: Broken Legend and Number Punches", with fully 33 of the 75 respondents voting for his article. Edgar is a repeat winner of this award, and has been a major contributor to the outstanding scholarship of the John Reich Journal.

Winners for the first annual JRCS Hall of Fame awards were announced. The inductees were: Dr. Daniel W. Valentine, author of "The United States Half Dimes" in 1931, and Russell J. Logan, co-author of "Early United States Dimes 1796 – 1837" and "Federal Half Dimes 1792 – 1837", and former treasurer and founding member of the JRCS.

A new nominating committee for the JRCS Hall of Fame was appointed, including:

Richard Meaney
W. David Perkins
Bradley S. Karoleff
Jim Matthews

Nominations for new inductees should be submitted to any of these committee members for next year's award.

Paul Hybert, webmaster of the JRCS website, announced that the website has been updated with a current list of articles from the John Reich Journal, and several other improvements have been made. Members and others are encouraged to visit the website at www.jrcs.org.

Member Stephen Herrman announced that he will produce an updated index of the JR Journal, for the first 20 volumes (all issues to date). A fourth edition, including Volume 21, will be produced at no additional charge.

Vice President Brad Karoleff reported that, of two recently discovered unbound signatures of the Logan/McCloskey half dime book, one has been beautifully leather bound and provided with a custom slip case, and as a fundraising measure, it will be auctioned at this meeting. After spirited and sometimes confusing bidding, the book was hammered at \$750 to member Rory Rea.

For literature collectors, it was announced that six (6) issues of Numismatic Scrapbook magazine, with articles by Walter Breen and Stew Witham, among others, would soon be auctioned.

Richard Meaney announced that future issues of the JR News would be sent via email. Members only need an ISP without a spam filter in order to receive the newsletter.

He further announced that he will continue to maintain the JR Newsletter blog, as well.

Under the subject of new books, Dr. Glenn Peterson announced that the new Bust quarter dollar book will be going to the printers soon, and hopefully will be distributed at the FUN Show in January. Rory Rea had color copies to show interested members.

This book has been a very long time in coming, and the co-authors appreciate everyone's patience. This book will have more photographs and more information than most die marriage references. It will be available for \$110 in the standard version, and \$400 - \$500 in the deluxe leather bound version, which will also contain color plates of the Eric P. Newman coins.

John McCloskey announced that his pending manuscript on early gold "... may not be coming soon".

Denis Loring announced that the 2011 joint EAC/JRCS convention would be held from May 11 - 15, 2011, in Portland, Oregon, at the Double Tree Hotel. Thursday evening would host the Happening, with a study and review of die varieties of the various copper and silver denominations. The bourse would be held on Friday and Saturday, featuring 40 - 50 dealers with copper and silver coins only, with numismatic theaters conducted both days. On Saturday night there would be a copper-only auction. Attendance is expected to be 250 - 300 people, and there is no admission charge.

Phil Carrigan announced that he is seeking numismatic theater presentations for the 2011 ANA Summer Convention in Chicago.

It was announced that the JRCS Open House would be held on Wednesday night, from 8:00 - 11:00 PM in room #2863 of the South Tower of the Sheraton Hotel, and is open to anyone interested in Bust coinage.

As there was no program this year, President Davis adjourned the meeting, and encouraged discussion among members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen A. Crain
Secretary - JRCS



The 1829 JR10 Curl Base Two Dime Revisited

Louis Scuderi

The 1829 JR10 curl base two dime has long been one of the major rarities in the capped bust dime series. John McCloskey discovered the first specimen in 1973 in a dealer's inventory at a small show in Dayton, Ohio. John, as he relates in his two articles on the variety (McCloskey, 1987, 1992), initially realized that he had found a new variety based on notes he had written outlining the reverse characteristics of the 1829 dimes.

His new specimen differed from any of the other eight 1829 varieties that he had already found. He didn't initially realize the importance of his find, or even that the two in the date was markedly different from that found on other 1829 dimes, until he brought the coin home and compared it to his other 1829 examples.

Needless to say it is indeed amazing and even somewhat hilarious to read his description of reviewing the coin and, after characterizing the reverse and much of the obverse, finally realizing that the two in the date had a large curl at its base rather than the normal flat two found on all other 1829 dimes. To think almost 30 years later that anyone would miss the distinctive two seems remarkable. You just want to scream out "John, look at the two!!!!" However, modern variety collectors with access to books and quick finder charts may not appreciate how difficult it was at the time to even identify varieties. Today that distinctive two is in great demand and on every dime collector's radar. The curl base two is needed by both variety and type collectors (a unique 1829 dime type) therefore many collectors beyond members of the JRCS actively search for this variety. The appearance of an existing or new specimen often results in frenzied bidding. John's initial F15 \$20 specimen would be worth upwards of \$10,000.

When John wrote his 1987 article, only five specimens were listed in the dime census (Logan, 1987). By the time his 1992 article was published, he estimated that there were about 12 known examples. Today, as I show below, the number of confirmed specimens is 35 with another four to five rumored. The finest known specimen is a PCGS VF35 recently found by Winston Zach and described in the previous issue of the journal (Zack and Scuderi, 2011). While no longer as rare as its R7 listing in *Early United States Dimes* (EUSD - Davis et al., 1984), it is still of major interest to collectors.

My goal here is to detail 1829 JR10 die states, die characteristics and rarity and to present the most complete census of this rare variety. Hopefully, this will allow collectors to gain a better understanding of the true rarity of the 1829 curl base two dime. I end with some speculation on how this rare variety may have come into existence.

Emission Order

An important part of the story of the 1829 JR10 relates to the emission order for late 1829 and early 1830 minted dime varieties. The curl base two obverse (1829 Obverse 6) was married to a reverse used for both the curl base two and the 1830 JR2 (1829 Reverse I/1830 Reverse B). In EUSD the authors note that the 1829 JR10 shares a reverse with 1830 JR2 and was the next to last variety emitted for the year 1829. However, obverse 6 of 1829 is not die-linked to any other 1829 marriage, and reverse I is only linked to the 1830 JR2 reverse B which in turn is the second marriage of what is a later die state of Obverse 1 for 1830. Since it possibly follows the 1830 JR1 in the emission order it was likely minted in early 1830 immediately following the 1830 JR1 dimes and just prior to the 1830 JR2 dimes. Figure 1a shows the emission order as listed in EUSD. Figure 1b shows a possible alternative emission order that moves the curl base two dime to just after the 1830 JR1.

a)	Obverse	Reverse	b)	Obverse	Reverse
1829 JR10	6	I	1829 JR11	4	J
1829 JR11	4	J	1830 JR1	1	A
1830 JR1	1	A	1829 JR10	6	I
1830 JR2	1	B	1830 JR2	1	B

Figure 1. Dime Emission Order- Late 1829 and Early 1830.
 a) After Davis et al., 1984, b) Possible emission order with the 1829 JR10 moved to 1830

Die Characteristics

The most striking characteristic of the 1829 JR10 is the distinctive 2 in the date. The unique curl base punch used for dimes in 1829 differs from all other known 1829 obverse 2's that are characterized by a flat bottom 2. It is approximately 7 percent larger than that found on the 1829 half dimes (McCloskey, 1987). It has a distinctive knob (figure 2), a relatively fat upper portion of the body of the right side of the upper curve of the 2 and a blunt/straight lower edge of the upper portion of the 2 that ends in a slight offset to a straight section linked to the lower curled portion of the 2. The punch appears to have been constructed in three sections: upper loop, a straight connecting segment and a lower curl. On higher-grade specimens, the offset between the upper

section and the connector clearly shows as a slight gap with the straight segment offset slightly to the left (Figure 2). On lower grade specimens, wear causes the gap to disappear resulting in a slight hump in the neck of the two. This 2 punch was later used on 1832 dimes.

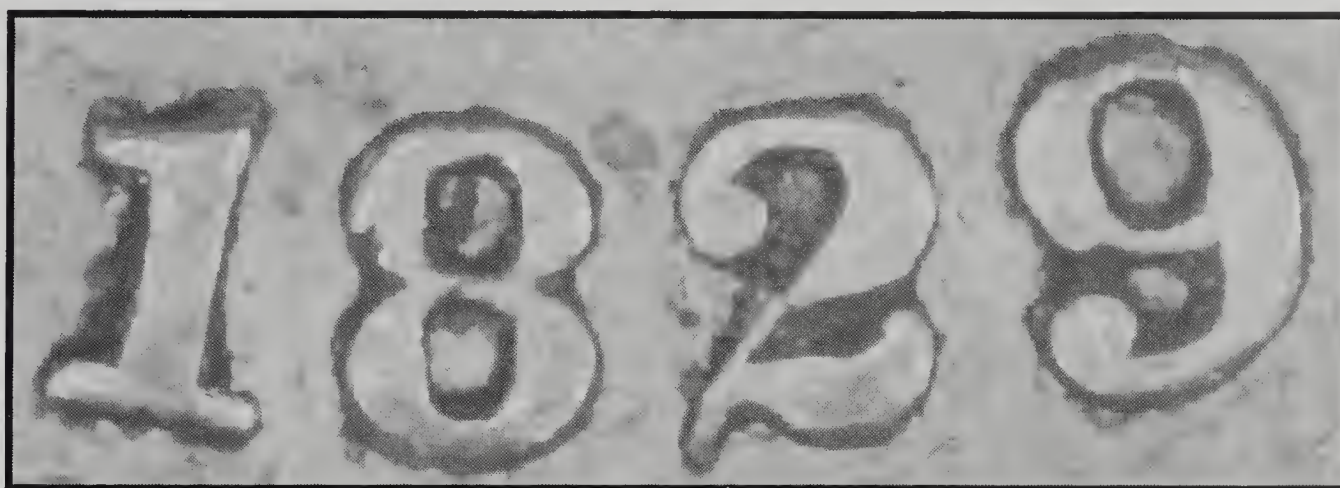


Figure 2. Date Elements. Note irregularities on the 8, 2 and 9

As can be seen in Figure 2, two other digits also show discontinuities. The connecting portion of the line between the upper and lower loops of the eight has a slight offset on its left side. The lower curve of the upper loop in the 9 has an offset and is thicker on the left and right curves of the upper portion of the digit than along the bottom of the curve. As with the finer features of the 2, these discontinuities (especially on the 9) are quickly worn away.

In addition to the date elements, there are several “hidden” obverse and reverse die characteristics that to my knowledge have not been noted previously in the literature. When I found my first curl base two dime, I was puzzled by the presence of what appeared to be spikes of metal that project out from the lower side of the bust directly above the gap between the 8 and 2 in the date and along the edge of the hair curls between the 9 and S13 (circled in Figure 3 top) and at several locations on the edge of the eagles body to the right of the shield and along the interior portion of the left wing (figure 3 bottom). Since this was a shared reverse with the 1830 JR2, I quickly retrieved my high grade specimen and, once again, there they were- a bit more subdued on the 1830 JR2 reverse relative to the 1829 JR10 reverse, but definitely there. Now how did I miss seeing that all those years?

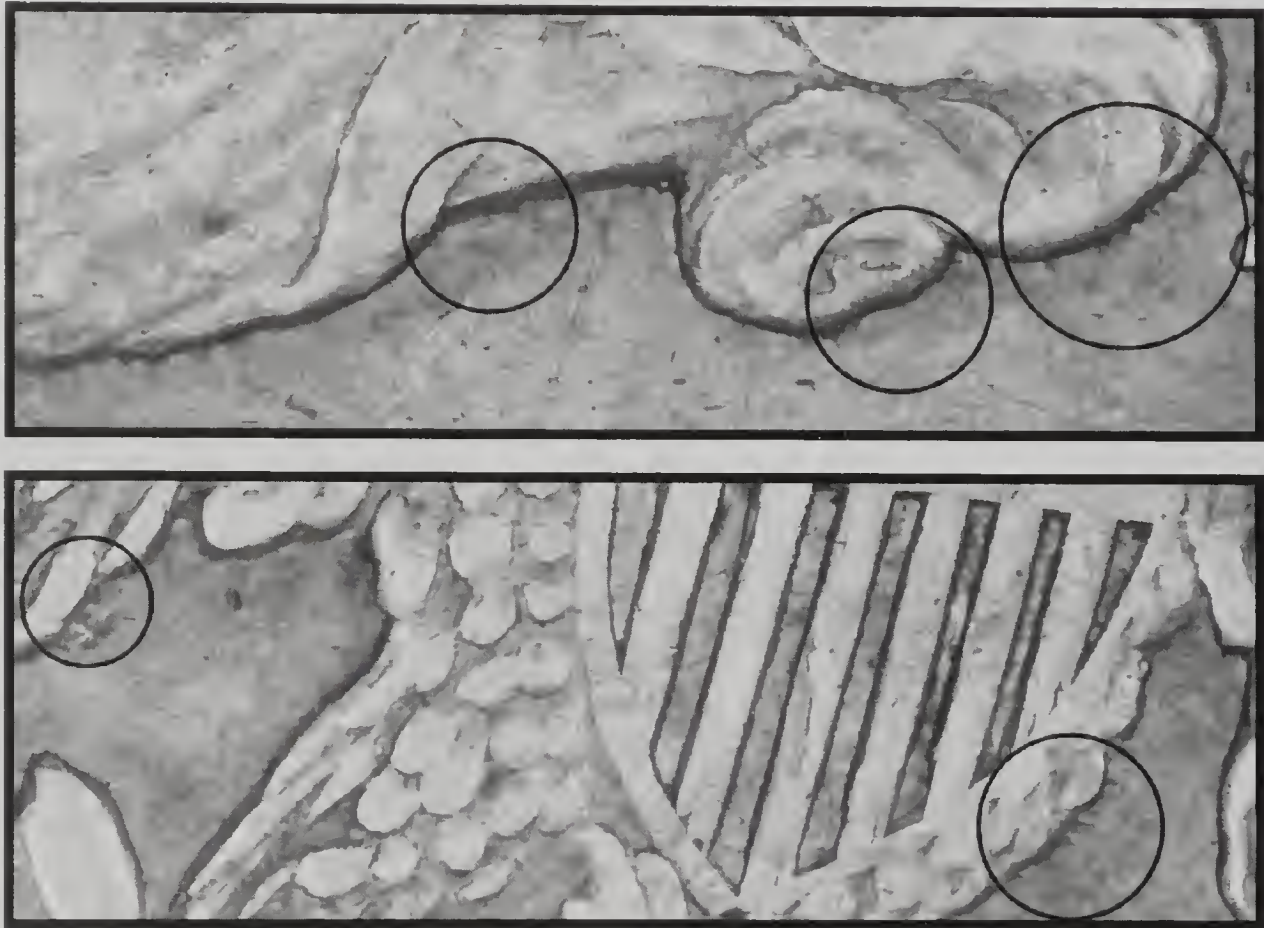


Figure 3. Locations (circled) of straight lines emerging from behind central devices

These projections are raised on the coin and as such would have been incuse on the die. They are somewhat regular and appear to have the same orientation running at an angle equal to that made by the inner and outer points of S7 on the obverse and straight across the coin in line with the U in UNITED and A3 in AMERICA on the reverse. They appear to poke out from behind the central devices and have the appearance of something left over from the die making process. On the bust half dollars of 1829, there are several varieties that show raised parallel lines in the field that may be similar to the lines seen on the JR10 (Obverses of O-107, 108, and 112 and the Reverse of O-109). For the 1830 half dollars similar features are seen on the obverse of O-115 and the reverses of O-102 and 113. The fact that they appear on both the obverse and reverse of the 1829 JR10 may indicate that the two dies were produced at the same time but were not finished properly.

There may be other explanations. I hope that other collectors will take a closer look at their coins to see if they can find similar features on other dime varieties.

Die States

The variety is well known for its obverse crack and it has been assumed that the rarity of the curl base 2 is due to the early failure of the obverse die. There are three known die states ranging from uncracked to a completely bisecting obverse crack. The reverse die shows no sign of deterioration, with none of the cracks found in the 1830 JR2 marriage that later uses this reverse. Cracks from each die state are illustrated in Figure 4. Due to wear on most specimens, the cracks are not usually visible where they traverse the central device.

Die State A, Early - Uncracked: A few specimens appear to show an uncracked or very weakly cracked obverse die. The recently found VF35 example (Zack and Scuderi, 2011) shows no sign of the obverse crack. This may be the earliest die state as well as the finest known example. A few additional specimens show little evidence of the crack but this may in part be due to poor quality of images. Approximately 10 percent of the known examples are die state A.

Die State B, Intermediate - Partial Crack: This is the most common die state, with the obverse die crack most commonly seen between the lower jaw and the bust. In higher grade specimens this crack can be seen to extend from the rim above the cap (right side of the dentil nine dentils to the right of the inner point of Star 7) to the cap, through the bottom of the I in LIBERTY, through the hair curls behind the eye, across the cheek and finally across the field to the top of the bust (See figure 4). Approximately 80 percent of the known specimens are die state B.

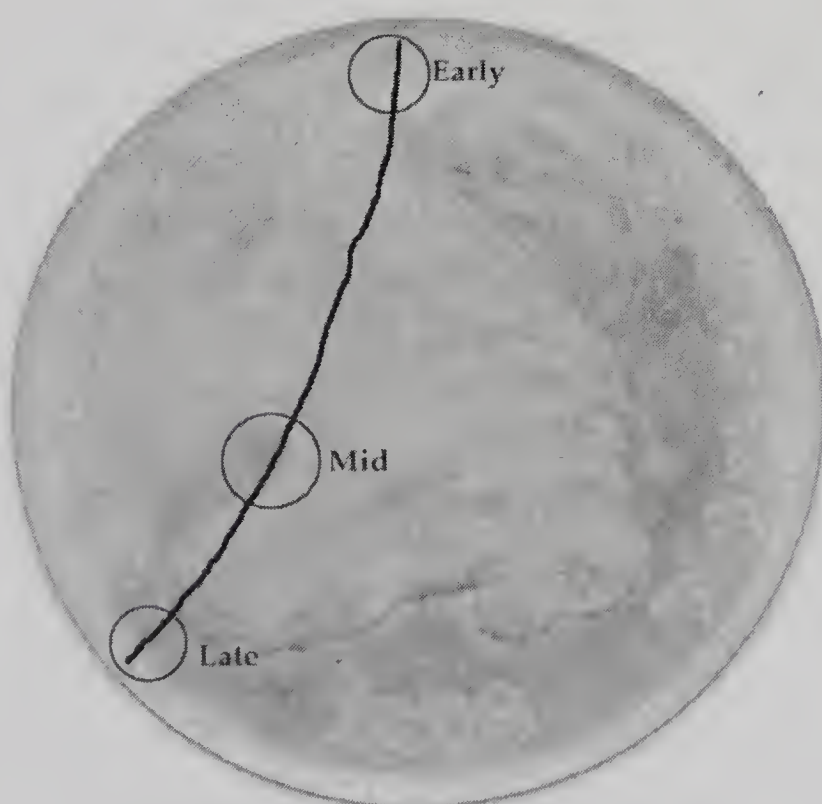


Figure 4.

Location of bisecting crack. Crack appears to have begun at top of obverse in the EDS, progressed rapidly across the field during the MDS and completed the bisecting crack in the LDS. In the VLDS the crack is a significantly raised ridge visible across the entire coin. Image is of Example 5 in Table 1.

Die State C, Late -Bisecting crack: The crack now completely bisects the coin from the upper to lower rim and now extends across the bust, exits into field below the bust and meets the rim at the left side of the dentil seven dentils to the right of the inner point of Star 1. The latest state of the die (figure 4) has a strongly raised crack running from the top rim to the top of the bust and then weakly to the dentil below the bust. The die must have failed immediately after this specimen was struck. Approximately 10 percent of known specimens are die state C.

Strike Characteristics

Overall striking characteristics of the variety show central weakness on both the obverse and reverse. This is in contrast with the strong peripheral details and dentils found on many specimens. Specimens that are graded G4 to G6 often have little detail visible on either the obverse or reverse central devices giving them the appearance of a lower grade coin. While relatively full details can be seen on the highest grade specimens there is notable weakness in the hair and left side of the bust on the obverse and in the eagle's feathers as well as the right side of the horizontal shield lines on the reverse for most known specimens. Given the location of these weaknesses, it is likely that they are associated with the failing die.

Known Specimens

I have recorded information about 1829 curl base two dimes since I saw my first example at the Long Beach show in 1987. To the degree possible, I have taken notes on specific characteristics of every specimen I have seen. In addition, since the late 1990's, I have compiled a digital image inventory of the variety. To date, I have images of 31 specimens, and notes on an additional two non-imaged specimens that I have seen in person. I also have a description of a holed example recently found by Alan Bricker and another confirmed by Brad Karoleff. While I have pricing data on a fair number of these coins, I have omitted it in Table 1 in cases where the owner has asked that the information remain undisclosed. Many of these coins have appeared multiple times, often changing appearance due to photography and in some cases due to cleaning and retoning.

Table 1 lists known and imaged specimens organized by grade. Note that the grade listed is my subjective opinion and that in some cases I disagree with the third party grading on the coin holder. Additional details, to the extent that I know them, about prices, dates of sale, and most importantly, distinguishing characteristics are listed.

Specimen #	Grade/Service	Price	Appearances	Notes- Distinguishing Marks, Damage
1	35/PCGS	-----	Winston Zack, Summer 2010	Toning spot to right of clasp and in field interior of S11. Reverse toning spot between lower leaf and 1. No crack.
2	30/PCGS	\$34500	Bolen specimen, Numisma '95: Reappeared cleaned and retoned. B&M Merena Lot 425 Jan 4 2008 FUN	Strong strike with crack showing strongly from jawline/neck intersection to top of bust. Dark toning at date and in stars at right. Small toning mark above cap. Reverse-dark toning at upper tip of D, bottom portion of F. Cleaned- Should be in a genuine holder.
3	20 details ANACS	\$6440	HNAI ANA/Charlotte Sig. Lot 451 #2951627	Cut in field by S2. Cut across center hair curl. Crack visible. Mushy reverse strike.
4	25 details NetVF	-----	Cincinnati- private collection	Surfaces cleaned (lightly thumbed/rubbed). Light obverse reverse scratches.
5	25 details/ ANACS Net 12	\$2700	Ebay 3/2001	Damage in right field from S2 to S4. Obv/Rev details of a VF 25 coin. VLDS. Extreme raised die bisecting crack. Scratches across chin and neck. Damage in obv. left field
6	15	\$20	1973 J. McCloskey	Cut across S8. Die crack strong. Decent strike. EUSD Plate coin. Discovery specimen. Possibly cleaned.
7	15	\$6600	Horning , B. Karoleff, B. Greer	Clean and undamaged example. Mottled toning in right obverse field. Dark mark on S10. Strong crack. Mushy rev.
8	12/PCGS genuine	\$16999	Ebay 4/11	Heavy crack. Vertical rough area in field from S7 to S1. Several scratches that look like a star below eagle's neck. Corrosion left obverse field. Devices smoothed.
9	10/NCS	\$3220	First seen Long Beach late 1987 Koenigs: Briggs: ???: Heritage 5819 Auction 382	Moderate strike with somewhat mushy obverse and reverse details. Reverse detail of a F15. Punch across eagle's upper neck. Punch across eagle's neck
10	8	-----	Ebay early 2005	Dark toning spot above top of cap, another central hair curl above clasp, third at inner points of S13. Reverse has ting spot between tip of eagle's beak and scroll below P. Crack visible. Album tone.
11	8	-----	Redbook date image	Date elements in Redbook image that do not match any of the other known specimens.
12	8	-----	Ebay 1/03	Cleaned coin with dark mark in field between S5 and S6 and nose. Bright from cleaning.
13	6	-----	Sherrill	Weakly struck central devices but otherwise a clean example. Rim from below bust to S4 weak. Later die state

14	6/ANACS formerly NGC10	\$3335	First seen D. Lawrence 1/02 Heritage 1/02	with crack visible from chin to bust. Reverse darkly toned. central device.
15	6/PCGS	\$4700	2007	Full obverse rim dentils. Dark in upper obverse with marks below S8. Reverse appears to have small mark/cut below left wing. Dark at 10C. Weak strike S1 to S3. Dark on upper obverse with very dark toning around S7. Reverse has numerous scratches across motto
16	6/PCGS	\$3080	Bowers 5/02: Classics 3/04: Auction 2010 Coinfest Coin Auction #1145 Lot 3499	Obverse scratch in two parts in line with left upright of Y of LIBERTY. Small scratch reverse from below T1 to tip of scroll and to tip of eagle's beak. Several small scratches across eagles neck
17	6/PCGS genuine	\$1495 \$2500	Auction 10 Sept. Long Beach, Sig. US Coin Auction#1144:Uhrich.	Dig above cap on obverse damages top right side of cap. Reverse dark line from tip of eagle's beak to scroll at L. Long straight scratch top to bottom of eagle's left wing. Cut above 0 and C in 10C
18	6	\$2600	1992 Long Beach CA	Cleaned specimen, small gouge between S3 and S4, bright
19	6	-----	~2003	Many small scratches on obverse with surface residue. Scratch chin to lower point of S2. Surface residue strong from rim below tip of bust to S1 & S2. Possibly cleaned. Scratch/toning line above cap from S1 to above point of cap. Dark rev. Two toning bright spots below stands of E3 & I2.
20	5	-----	Ebay 5/01	Dark spots on obverse at main device above 82 as well as multiple dark spots in front of face in field. Half crescent of darker toning S4 across bust to S12 & continuing up to S9. Reverse dark at TED STA, small mark from high point of beak to scroll.
21	4PCGS CAC	\$5750 \$6018	Bowers?: Teletrade Auction 2765 Lot 1506, 11/2009: Heritage Auction 1124 Lot95 David Lawrence Jan 2010	Weak from S1 to S3. Toning spot between S11 and S12. No crack. Toning spots at N, below right foot of M and above A3 at rim.
22	4/NGC	\$5462	Don Frederick July 83: Reiver, Heritage Auction 390 1/06 Lot 22218: Gorman	Small nick to right of S6. Scratches in right and left fields and above cap. Rim nick above ED. Crack weakly visible though complete from top of obverse to bust below chin. Appears cleaned.
23	4	-----	Ebay 7/02 removed before	Very dark reverse

				sale	
24	4/ANACS	-----		Heritage: May 2010 Milwaukee, CSNS US Coin Auction #1139	Weak S1 to S4. Scratch from rim to left of 1 across bust to back of ribbon. Reverse weak above UNIT. Two parallel cuts above top of eagle's left wing. Darkly toned coin
25	4	-----		Ebay 4/02, Ulrich specimen	Strong scratch from S2 to center of obverse. Reverse has multiple scratches across claws and from rim above U to middle set of leaves
26	4/PCGS	\$7000		L&C Coin Jan 2010	Weak left obverse especially S1 to S4. Crack visible. On reverse gouge above eagles head and scroll. Two small toning marks on top center of right wing.
27	4	-----		Ebay ~2004	Weakly struck left obverse with rim and stars from S2 to S5 very weak. Reverse has dark triangular mark from eagles wing to NI and small two part gouge behind eagles neck
28	4/NCS	-----		Hatfield 1978, Kern, Nusbaum, Kern, Lovejoy, Logan 1984 FUN 2008 Lot 945	Damage on left side of obverse. Bend from S6 to ~9 of date results in little detail on S2-S5 and area below date. Obverse weakness From S1 across coin to 0 in date
29	4 Net/ ANACS	-----		Ebay 2004	Corroded surfaces. Possible detail of a VG 10. Dark reverse.
30	4/NCS	\$4312		5/8/07 Southland collection	Large scratch in obverse left field from S7 to point of bust. Two parallel scratches from eagle's neck to scroll. Strong die crack. Reverse mushy.
31	4	-----		Koenings	Rim damage obverse and reverse. Dark residue above S1 to S5 S8 to S10. Possibly lightly bent. Rim damage Below date and at ES (STATES)
32	3	-----		Alan Bricker, 2009	Damaged and holed.
33	3/NCS?	\$1750		Heritage May, 2009 Long Beach Auction, Ebay ending 8/1/09 Opened at \$1750	Smashed with circular impression damaging 182 of date and bust above. Crack visible. Possibly bent with weak rim S3 to S5 and below 9 of date. Reverse shows evidence of the punch.
34	2/PCGS	-----		AUCTION: 1/10/2005 The Kennywood Collection SESSION: Colonials Onward LOT #: 348	Bent. Detail from rim below 1 S4 missing. Details from top of cap to S12 missing. Possible small indentation rim to bottoms of 2 and 9. Rev. missing almost all detail from T1 to A2 & from U to lower arrowhead. Denomination missing
35	2 Net	\$1800		1989 dealers inventory Los Angeles CA	Most of obverse worn. Deep cut at 1 in date. Reverse has almost no detail remaining. 2 visible.

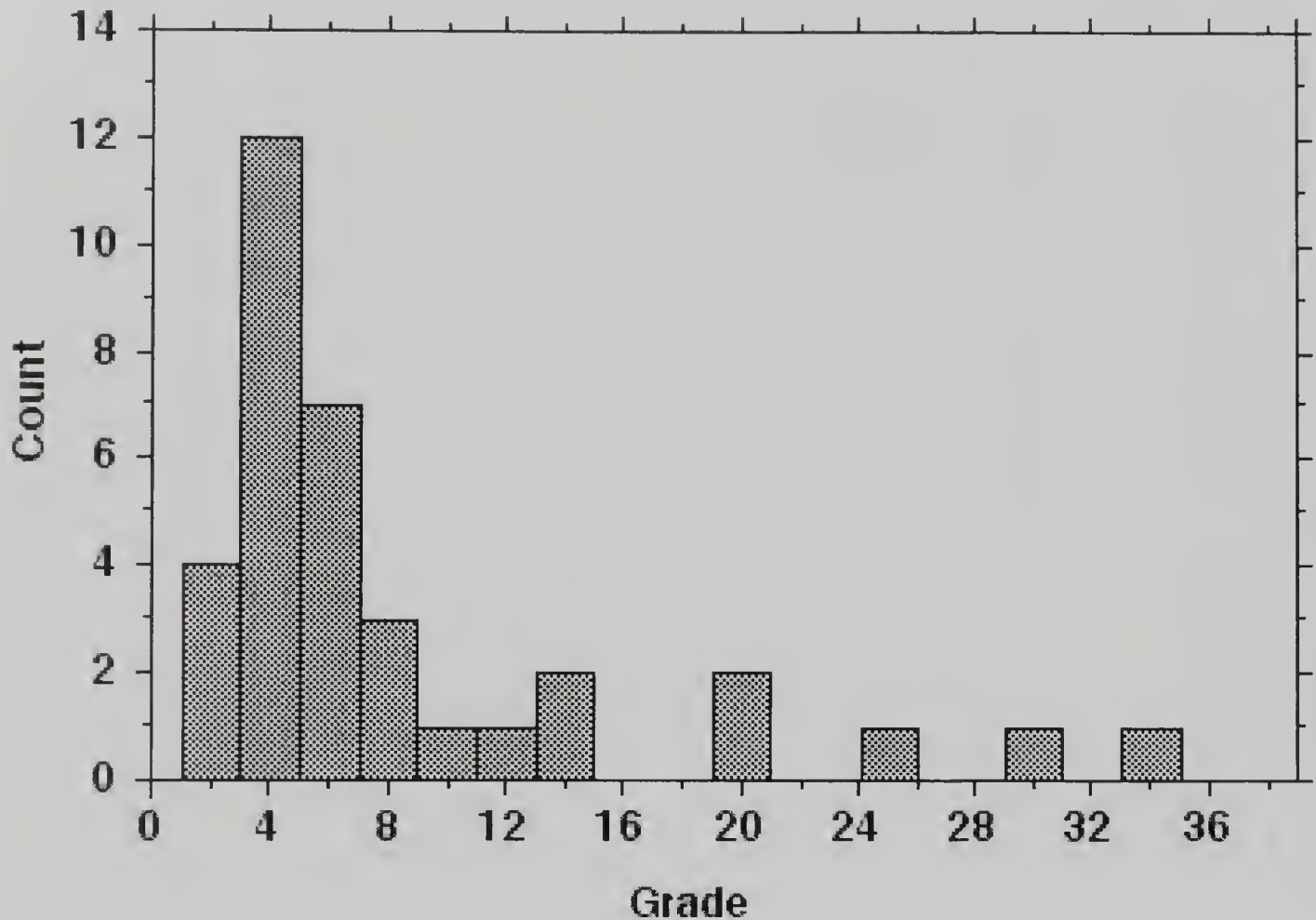


Figure 5. Histogram of grades of known 1829 JR10 specimens.

Grading Breakdown

As can be seen from the tabled data and Figure 5, the curl base two dime is known primarily in low-grade condition with a majority of specimens in the About Good to low Very Good range (Mean grade VG 8.6, Maximum grade VF35+, Minimum grade AG2). A significant number of specimens have been damaged. Russ Logan once commented to me that, in his experience, the variety was found in damaged condition far more frequently than expected. The tabled data would appear to confirm this observation with almost 50 percent of the known specimens in damaged condition. Strangely, many of these coins have damage in the left obverse field.

Until recently, PGCS listed an AU50 example in its census for the variety. However, this coin has not been reported by any collector and has not been listed in any census. Additionally, no collector that I know has actually seen the coin. This AU50 coin has now been removed from the PCGS census. If such a coin exists and you can verify it, please contact me at the email address at the end of this article.

Some Speculation

The 1829 obverse 6 used to produce the curl base two dime failed almost immediately with a bisecting obverse crack. Bisecting failures are rare on dimes of late 1820's and early 1830's, and only begin to show up in the last few years of production when the mint shifted to the steam press. This suggests that the failure may have been due to excess pressure exerted during the coining process. Dimes using obverse 1 for 1830 (JR1, 2 and 3) are characterized by an extremely wide rim with significant deterioration of the obverse dentils. Reverses A, B and C all failed with CUD's and/or extreme cracking. Obverse 1 finally failed with a CUD at Stars 8 and 9 (Scuderi, 2008). Having collected and studied this obverse extensively, I know of no 1830 JR1 dime with perfect dentils. Even very early die state coins of this variety show dentil deterioration unlike any I have seen. I believe that this deterioration may be due to an increase in striking pressure designed to bring up the detail on a slightly wider rimmed coin. The result was a stronger strike on the periphery of the coin and a loss of some detail on the central devices.

With the above in mind, I propose the following minting sequence to explain the 1829 JR10 dime. In early 1830, Obverse 1 was married to Reverse A to produce 1830 JR1. Obverse 1, with its wider rim, was an experimental die designed to produce better-struck coins but at the cost of slightly higher striking pressure. The reverse die quickly failed via a reverse CUD over UNIT and was retired. Both dies were removed and an unused 1829 obverse (6) and reverse (I) were married. The increased striking pressure used for the wide bordered 1830 Obverse 1 dimes quickly broke the 1829 obverse die. Before it was retired it produced a small number of coins characterized by weak central details with sharp obverse stars and dentils and well struck reverse lettering. The reverse die, which was still in excellent shape, was married with the 1830 Obverse 1 die to produce 1830 JR2. Eventually, after the retirement of 1830 Reverse B due to failure, Obverse 1 was married to Reverse C to produce JR3, which also eventually failed with multiple CUD's (Scuderi, 2008). The wider obverse rim finally failed at S8 and S9, thus terminating the experiment with the wider rimmed coins.

Rarity (Current and Future)

The rarity of the 1829 curl base two dime can be explained in large part due to the failure of the obverse die. Few early die states exist without evidence of a crack, suggesting

that the obverse die failed early in its life. This suggests that the actual run of this marriage was fairly brief, and thus the pool of coins from which we obtain specimens was small. Since the variety was first recognized in 1973, nearly 40 specimens are known, currently making this an R5+ coin. The discovery rate is a little over one specimen per year, a number that is consistent with what I have observed over the past 25 years. While new specimens will continue to be discovered, it appears that the rate of discovery relative to the number of people searching has decreased. This suggests that, at best, there may be no more than a maximum of 55 to 60 specimens extant. With this in mind, it is realistic to say that demand for this variety will always outstrip supply.

Some Final Notes

The story of the curl base two dime is definitely not complete. Explanation of the hidden die lines, akin to those found on bust half dollars of the era is still necessary. I believe that a better understanding of the 1829 JR10's relationship to the other dimes of late 1829 and early 1830 is necessary to understand this unique obverse die. I hope that this paper will engender some discussion, eventually producing a new understanding of the minting process.

If you are aware of a curl base two dime that you believe is not on this list and would like to share an image and information about the coin, please feel free to contact me at cirque1@gmail.com. I would also be happy to confirm any particular specimen against those in the table. In many cases I have multiple images of the same coin from different sales and am able to document changes in the surface characteristics of individual specimens.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Winston Zack and A.H. Foerder for recent discussions that helped me finalize some of my thoughts on the 1829 JR10. Thanks again to Winston for his fine photography of the VF35 specimen. Special thanks also go to Mike Sherrill who helped locate specimens over the years and who has discussed curl base twos and capped bust coinage with me for almost a quarter of a century. And, of course, great thanks to my mentor, the late Russ Logan, who taught me the importance of keeping careful records of the coins I collect.

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The Case of the Missing Edge Letters

Henry R. Hilgard

Although most half dollars struck between the years 1794 and 1836 have edge letters that spell out the inscription “FIFTY CENTS OR HALF A DOLLAR”, sometimes a coin’s edge is missing some of the letters. Two extreme examples of missing edge letters on capped bust half dollars are the subjects of this article: the first is an 1817 Overton-106a with an edge that reads “FIFT LLAR” (Figure 1). Although it is quite unusual to have so few letters, it is relatively common for at least some letters of the central portion of the inscription to be missing, while the first word FIFTY and the last word DOLLAR are retained. In fact, all 46 examples with missing edge letters cited in Overton¹ retain at least portions of either FIFTY or DOLLAR. Thus it was a surprise to see the edge of the second half dollar: an 1810 Overton-106a that displays the edge lettering “NTS OR HALF A” (Figure 2). This piece differed from others I had seen in that FIFTY and DOLLAR are completely missing while the central portion of the inscription is entirely intact. How did this happen? The answer requires an understanding of the edge lettering device.



Figure 1. Reverse of an 1817 O.106a half dollar photographed with an edge mirror. Hand lettering has been added outside of the mirror to clarify the positions of the edge letters.(6b). In both cases the moving die is NOT completely retracted at the starting point.



Figure 2. Reverse of an 1806 O.106a half dollar photographed with an edge mirror. Hand lettering has been added outside of the mirror to clarify the positions of the edge letters.

On the way to becoming a coin, a bust half dollar blank was first passed through a device that applied edge lettering, commonly known as a Castaing machine, named for the Frenchman Jean Castaing who made significant improvements in the machine around 1680. In the Castaing machine the half dollar blanks were rolled and squeezed between two parallel bar dies, one fixed in position and the other moving. Each die contributing half of the inscription, either “FIFTY CENTS OR” or “HALF A DOLLAR”. The lettering was in relief on these dies, so that the lettering ended up incuse on the coins’ edges. The pressure that was applied to the blanks also caused them to have raised rims, thus transforming the blanks into planchets ready for striking. Our knowledge of how these edge lettering machines worked is reasonably good because a couple of them still exist and have been illustrated². In addition some of us were fortunate to have seen and used a working model of a Castaing Machine that Russell Logan built and brought with him to several coin shows before his untimely death in 2002.

Figure 3 is a schematic drawing of how a blank normally begins its passage through the Castaing machine. It is important to note that the Moving Die is fully retracted into its usual starting position prior to the time that the blank starts its passage between the dies. The blank’s passage is complete when the Moving Die has passed completely by the Fixed Die. The blank will receive all of the edge lettering from both dies.

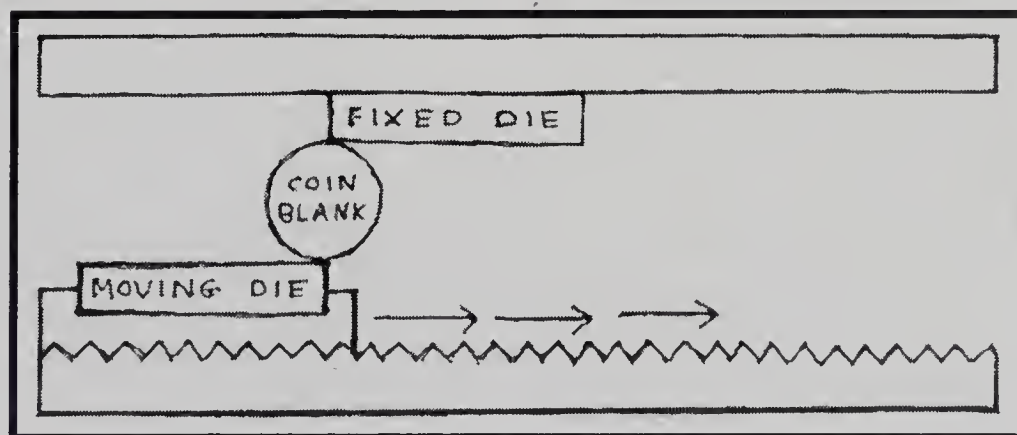


Figure 3. Schematic drawing of the starting position of a blank when it is about to pass between the fixed and moving dies in the Castaing machine. Here the moving die is completely retracted into its normal starting position and the blank will receive a complete set of edge letters.

Figure 4 shows what happens if a coin blank begins its passage when the Moving Die has not been fully retracted into its normal starting position. The blank's passage will be incomplete, and the blank will be released before the moving die has completely passed by the fixed die. The blank will be imprinted only with the edge lettering from the first part of the dies that it contacts. The blank will be missing the letters from the ends of the dies that are on the right in the figure.

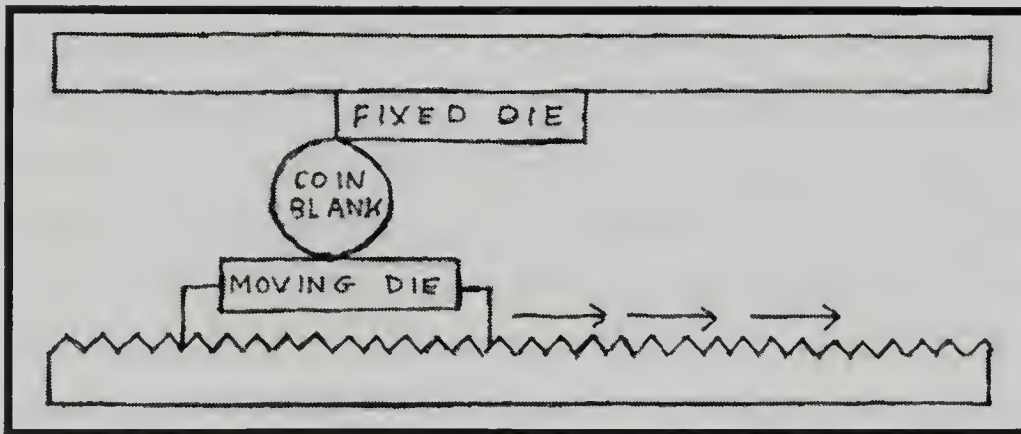


Figure 4. Schematic drawing of the starting position of a blank when the moving die is NOT completely retracted into its usual starting position. The blank will be missing the letters from the ends of the dies on the right in the figure at the starting point.

There are two ways that the dies could have been inserted into the Casting machine so that the middle section of the inscription, for example "CENTS OR HALF A", would be missing if the Moving Die had not been fully retracted into its usual starting position. Figure 5 is a schematic drawing of these two die configurations. The configurations differ in that the 2 dies can be inserted either "right side up" with the tops of the letters up towards the viewer (5a) or "upside down" so that the tops of the letters are down (5b). In either arrangement the letters that will be missing are from the ends of the dies that are to the right in the figure, namely letters from the middle section of FIFTY CENTS OR HALF A DOLLAR. Either one of these two die configurations could be responsible for the edge reading "FIFT LLAR" as on the 1817 O.106a illustrated in Figure 1.

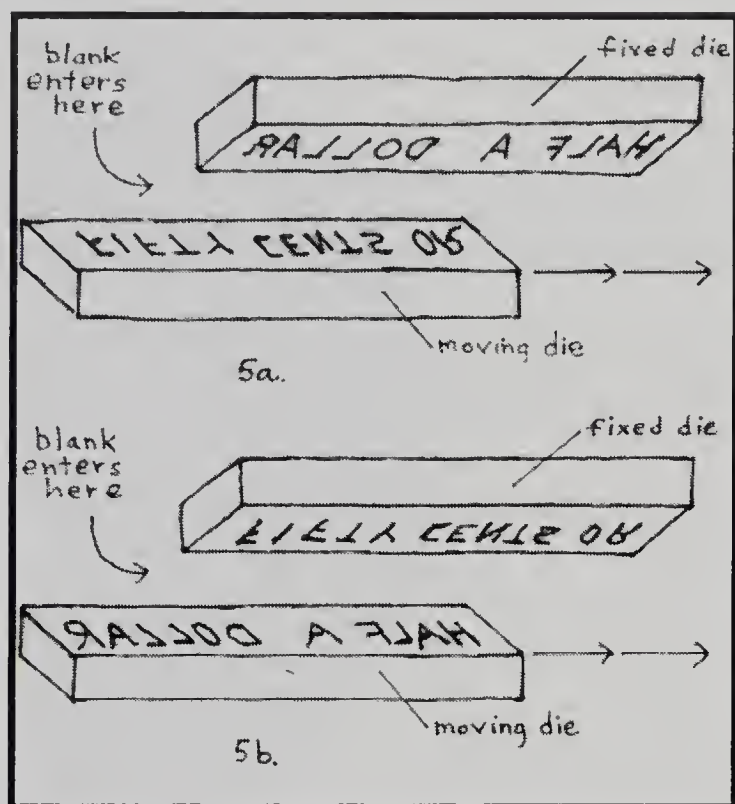


Figure 5.

Schematic drawing of the two die positions that will result in a blank missing the letters from the center section of FIFTY CENTS OR HALF A DOLLAR. The dies are either both "right side up" (5a) or "upside down" (5b). In both cases the moving die is NOT completely retracted at the starting point.

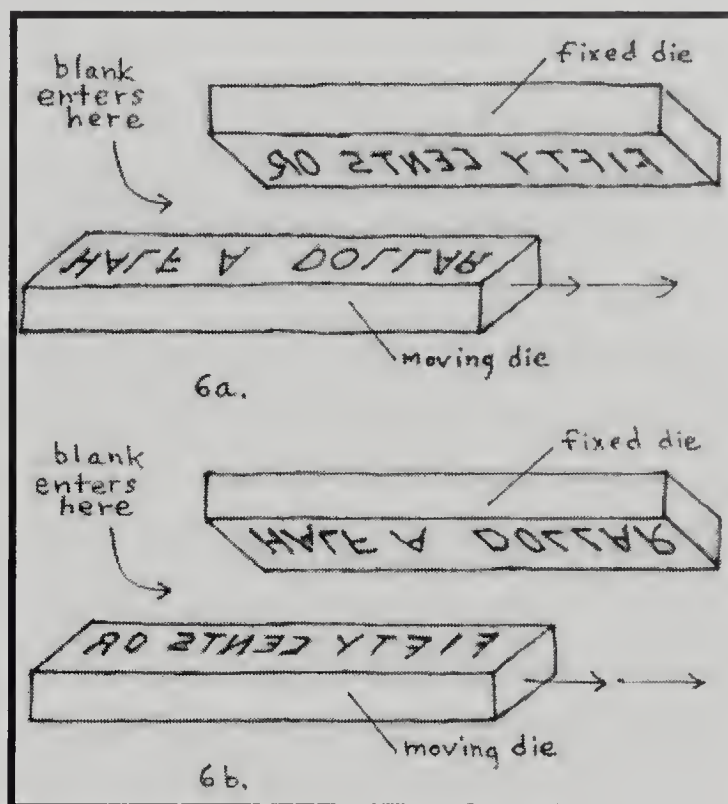


Figure 6.

Schematic drawing of the two die positions that will result in a blank missing the letters from the ends of FIFTY CENTS OR HALF A DOLLAR. The dies are either both "right side up" (6a) or "upside down" (6b). In both cases the moving die is NOT completely retracted at the starting point.

Figure 6 shows the two ways that the dies can be inserted into the Casting machine so that the end portions of the inscription ("FIFTY" and "DOLLAR") will be missing if the Moving Die has not been completely retracted into the usual starting position. These are shown schematically as positions 6a and 6b. Again the possibilities differ in that both dies may be inserted either with the letters "right side up" as in position 6a or "upside down" as in position 6b. The missing lettering will again be from the ends of the dies to the right in the figure, and an extreme result could be "NTS OR HALF A" as on the 1810 O.106a illustrated in Figure 2.

Since it is known that edge letters, when missing, are almost always the ones from the center region of the inscription “FIFTY CENTS OR HALF A DOLLAR”, how are we to choose between die arrangements 5a and 5b, both of which provide an opportunity for missing center letters when the Moving Die is not completely retracted? An important clue is the occasional occurrence of edge letters that are placed too high on the edge of the planchet so that they will appear at first glance to be edge dents on the coin (Figure 7). In all examples of this phenomenon seen by the author, it has been the tops of the letters that are placed too high so that they deform the rim on the coin. If we assume that this occurred because the blank rose up off of the Castaing machine’s base plate as it received its edge letters, then the tops of the letters were in the “upside down” position as in 5b.



Figure 7.
Obverse of an 1813 O.106 half dollar showing that its “edge dents” are not due to circulation but are actually caused by the tops of edge letters that have deformed the rim of the coin.

If we assume that the standard die arrangement is 5b, with “up side down” dies, what change would have been made in 1810 so that the end words FIFTY and DOLLAR became the ones that were missing? The most logical change would be to simply exchange the positions of the dies, leaving them both upside down, as illustrated in 6b.

There is one known combination of edge dies in which one die was inserted right side up and the other upside down³ (Figure 8). This resulted in “FIFTY CENTS OR” on the coin’s edge being followed by an inverted “HALF A DOLLAR”. This combination is found on some examples of the 1818 O.108 variety. Since this error seems to indicate that an edge die could be inserted either right side up or upside down, it is a credit to

the coiners that more mistakes of this kind were not made during the many years of bust half dollar production.



Figure 8. A section of “inverted edge lettering” on an 1818 O.108 half dollar; showing “ENTS OR” followed by an upside down “LAR”.

In summary we can conclude that (1) the missing edge letters are the result of incomplete retraction of the moving die at the start of the edge lettering process, (2) letters missing from the ends of the inscription (rather than from the middle) can be explained by reversing the positions of the 2 dies, and (3) a good argument can be made that the dies in the Castaing machine were placed in the upside down position at least some of the time.

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3. Jeff Prem, *The 1818 O108 ‘Inverted Edge’ Bust Half Dollar*, John Reich Journal, Volume 11 / Issue 2, January 1998, pp. 26-31.

Special thanks to Russell Logan, Keith Bellman, Chuck Link and Craig Sholley for their invaluable thoughts on this subject, and thanks also to David Camire for his generosity in supplying the photographs of the edge lettering on the 1810 and 1817 half dollars.



Condition Census - Flowing Hair and Draped Bust Half Dimes 1792-1805

Stephen A. Crain

With just twelve collectors reporting a total of only 82 coins, the Flowing Hair and Draped Bust half dimes certainly cannot be considered in the mainstream of American numismatics. There were two fewer participants in this census compared with the last (2008) census, and many fewer coins (82 vs. 101), yet the overall average grade of the reported collections was higher, and there were a few new participants this time. The survey results attest to the great difficulty in locating nice, problem-free examples of the early half dimes, and the high cost associated with their pursuit. Several nice, high grade collections are represented here, seeded with coins from the collections of previous JRCS members, now dispersed (see 'Archived Collections'). Of the thirty-two (32) known die marriages for the period 1792 to 1805, all but one die marriage, the 1803 LM-3, an R3 marriage, are represented in the present survey, perhaps hinting at a greater scarcity for that marriage. The present survey includes two (2) examples of the 1792 half dime, and one example of the 1802, widely considered to be the most expensive, if not the rarest, marriage in the series. Although there were no complete die marriage collections of early half dimes reported in this census, four collections were complete by date, excluding the 1792 and 1802. It is also important to note that there was a definite concentration of the scarcer (R5 and better) die marriages in many collections.

No adjustments were made to any of the rarity ratings for any of the early half dimes at this time, although the 1800 LM-2/V3, with at least seven known examples, and the 1800 LM-4/V4, with perhaps eight known examples, may be the next to fall below R7 status.

For comparison purposes, and to provide an indicator of the relative difficulty of completing this series by die marriage, the former collections of Ed Price, Jules Reiver, and William A. Harmon, all now dispersed, are presented in a separate tabulation as "Archived Collections" for reference.

From this relatively small sampling it is difficult to discern too many patterns, but some interesting observations may still be made. The most 'common' die marriages for the early half dimes are rated as "Scarce", or R3 (201-500 examples), with none

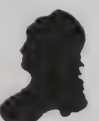
more common than that. Yet the most ‘common’ die marriages reported in this very limited census (1801 LM-2 and 1803 LM-2, each with six reported specimens), are both R4 marriages. And the 1803 LM-3, the most ‘common’ of the 1803 marriages, was not represented by even one example in this census, perhaps suggesting a more limited availability than previously thought. Indeed, not one of the top four most complete collections reported a single example of the R3 1803 LM-3, yet all had nice examples of the R4 and R6 marriages for this date. Similarly, just one of the top four collections included a single example of the R3 1795 LM-8 die marriage. This may suggest a tendency to concentrate on the more rare die marriages for each date, or may indicate that they are perhaps scarcer than once thought.

The early United States half dimes represent a significant challenge to the serious collector. Collecting the series just by date can be difficult, and collecting by die marriage, even with just thirty-two marriages, can occupy many years of dedicated searching. As with all early Federal coinage, locating nice, problem-free examples can be frustrating, but at the same time very rewarding.

2011 EARLY BUST HALF DIME CENSUS							
ARCHIVED COLLECTIONS							
DATE	L/M	V	R	EP1	EP2	JR	WAH
1792	1	1	3	50		15	20
1794	1	1	6	55	53	20	20
	2	2	5	55	50	15	30
	3	3	4	58	55	50	40
	4	4	4	50	40	50	50
1795	1	1	6	58	50		40
	2	10	7	63	55	35	
	3	2	5	60	55	40	20
	4	3	6	60	50	12	35
	5	9	6	53	50	20	
	6	7	6	55	50	30	20
	7	8	6	40	20	40	45
	8	5	3	60	40	50	45
	9	6	4	61	30	30	20
	10	4	3	63	50	45	50
1796	1	1	3	62	50	40	55
	2	2	6	62	55	30	40
1797	1	2	3	55	45	40	40
	2	4	4	55	55	55	60
	3	3	5	58	50	6	20
	4	1	6	60	53	30	15
1800	1	1	3	55	50	45	45
	2	3	7	50	40	20	
	3	2	4	50		30	30
	4	4	7	30	20		
1801	1	3	7	4	4	20	
	2	1,2	4	63	55	40	45
1802	1	1	5	45	40		6
1803	1	3	6	60	60	40	20
	2	1	4	61	55	15	45
	3	2	3	55	40	30	45
1805	1	1	4	50	45	12	30
COINS OWNED				32	30	29	27
AVERAGE GRADE				54	46	31	34

2011 FLOWING HAIR & DRAPED BUST HALF DIME CENSUS

CURRENT COLLECTIONS																			
DATE	L/M	V	R	323	LM29	25	950	LM13	LM42	893	411	1387	519	1301	1195	PCS	AVG	MAX	
1792	1	1	3			30									6	2	18	30	
1794	1	1	6	55					4							2	29.5	55	
	2	2	5		62		45			45						3	50.67	62	
	3	3	4			50										1	50	50	
	4	4	4		58											1	58	58	
1795	1	1	6	64												1	64	64	
	2	10	7	61				30								2	45.5	61	
	3	2	5						7							1	7	7	
	4	3	6	55				40			40		10			5	32	55	
	5	9	6	30				45								2	37.5	45	
	6	7	6	30			40	35								3	35	40	
	7	8	6	20												1	20	20	
	8	5	3		66							53				2	59.5	66	
	9	6	4										10			1	10	10	
	10	4	3		64	58										2	61	64	
1796	1	1	3		66	45		35								3	48.67	66	
	2	2	6	40	58	8	40									4	36.5	58	
1797	1	2	3		64	53	58			45		15				5	47	64	
	2	4	4		65	20	62									3	49	65	
	3	3	5	50												1	50	50	
	4	1	6	30	55	35										3	40	55	
1800	1	1	3	30	65	64				58						4	54.25	65	
	2	3	7	58				15								3	27.67	58	
	3	2	4	40	58	45										3	47.67	58	
	4	4	7	20			20	50								3	30	50	
1801	1	3	7	8				12	4							3	8	12	
	2	1,2	4	53	67	45	45	53								6	47.17	67	
1802	1	1	5		45											1	45	45	
1803	1	3	6	45	45	35	55									4	45	55	
	2	1	4	53	65	55	62		8					55		6	49.67	65	
	3	2	3													0	0	0	
1805	1	1	4	30	58	35	45									4	42	58	
COINS OWNED				19	16	14	10	9	4	3	2	2	1	1	1	32 KNOWN			
AVERAGE GRADE				40.63	60.06	41.29	47.2	35	5.75	49.33	46.5	12.5	10	55	6				



Condition Census – Capped Bust Half Dimes 1829 – 1837

Stephen A. Crain

In the three years since the last (2008) JRCS half dime census was compiled, no new die marriages or remarriages have been discovered (or at least reported). However, it is evident that interest in the series is at an all time high with many new collectors joining the search for the elusive die marriages. Many other experienced collectors have been busy upgrading and improving their collections. A total of twenty-two (22) collectors reported their holdings of Capped Bust half dimes (compared with twenty-seven (27) in the 2008 Capped Bust census), but there were many new names reporting this time. Additionally, there were more nearly complete collections in this census. There are 92 die marriages in the series, and this census contains one complete collection, three collections with 91 marriages (although not all are missing the same die marriage), one with 90 marriages, and three more with less than six marriages to go for completion. The average grades of the collections were higher in this census than in the last as well. It is evident that many collectors seek completion of the series, an accomplishment that is obtainable with a great deal of patience and learning.

Mint state examples were reported for every die marriage in the series except for the 1829 LM-18, 1830 LM-11, 1835 LM-12, and 1837 LM-3, all of which are very scarce marriages. Each of these is represented by a highest graded example in AU-58 grade, except the 1835 LM-12 for which an EF-45 is the finest reported. An MS-61 example was reported for the 1830 LM-10/V12 in this census for the first time, the only reported mint state example for that R6 marriage. Even for the remarriages, most are represented by at least one mint state example, with a few notable exceptions (e.g., 1829 LM-6.1, 1832 LM-9.2, and 1836 LM-1.1).

The rarity estimates given in the accompanying tables are my own, based upon several factors beginning with the rarity estimates published in the Logan/McCloskey book, modified by the data compiled in this and previous census surveys also used data from my own observations and knowledge with important input from a few other knowledgeable and respected specialists based upon many years of collecting the series. Collectors are warned, however, against placing too much emphasis on the rarity ratings as they are merely estimates. While a limited amount of valid information may properly be gleaned from the compilation of a census survey such as this, more often the census results tend to be misconstrued, to misrepresent the information contained therein by making some invalid assumptions. Perhaps the greatest of these invalid assumptions is that the census results represent a cross section of what is *readily available* to collectors in the open market. Quite the contrary, by their very nature the coins listed in the accompanying charts are the very coins *no longer available* to collectors, as they are impounded in collections, and are likely to remain off the market

for a very long time. Many of the coins listed herein represent exhaustive searches by dedicated specialists who have spent years seeking just the right specimen for their collection, and it would be folly to think that anyone could easily duplicate the same results by treating this as a shopping list of sorts.

There are many caveats which should be fully understood before collectors attempt to apply the results of this or any similar census survey to their collecting pursuits. These limitations, or biases, can be summarized as follows:

- Limited Sampling: This census was open only to JRCS members, and primarily only half dime specialists chose to participate. This represents a very tiny percentage of the total number of collectors and of the total number of existing half dimes. For example, a total of 13,058,700 Capped Bust half dimes were produced by the Mint during the period of 1829 to 1837. If we assume a very conservative survival rate of just 1%, then 130,587 Capped Bust half dimes would be extant. Yet the approximately 2060 half dimes reported in this census are just 0.0157% of those. If we use a larger, perhaps more realistic survival rate of 4%, then the half dimes reported in this census represent a mere 0.0039% of the estimated total surviving specimens! Also, the coins reported in this census do not represent a random sampling of what is available to collectors in the market place, but represent only those dates, varieties and grades that collectors chose to purchase for their collections.

- One Collector, One Coin: Most collectors do not purchase coins in direct proportion to the number available in the marketplace. Collectors typically seek just one example of each date and die marriage, and seldom purchase additional examples. On the other hand, if a collector determines that a specific issue is scarce or has good investment potential, he may purchase additional examples as duplicates or for trade. Such practices can skew the census, often making scarce issues appear to be more common.

- Upgrading: Many collectors purchase the more difficult die marriages in whatever grade is available at the time and then seek to upgrade the coin at a later date. Once upgraded, collectors often retain the lower grade specimen as a duplicate or for trade. For the more common die marriages, however, collectors may forgo any purchase until the desired example comes along. Again, this would tend to skew the census in favor of the scarcer marriages.

- Hoarding: Some collectors develop a particular interest in a specific date, whether for study, investment, or other purpose, and report disproportionate quantities of those dates. These hoards tend to make certain dates appear much more readily available than experience has shown.

• Blind Reliance On Third Party Attributions (and grading): Many collectors do not take the time to learn to attribute their half dimes themselves, particularly when distinguishing the often confusing remarriages. They tend to rely on the attributions of the grading services, which have a deplorable record for proper attribution and should only be accepted with great skepticism, or ignored completely.

Over time, the rarity estimates have a tendency to go down as more examples are located and identified; it is unusual that any rarity rating would ever go up. Accordingly, based upon the data presented in this census, plus empirical data collected by several knowledgeable Capped Bust half dime specialists, the rarity ratings of the following die marriages have been lowered:

1829 LM-8 reduced from R7 to R6, as a minimum of 14 examples are traceable.

1829 LM-9 reduced from R5 to R4

1829 LM-10 reduced from R5 to R4

1829 LM-18 reduced from R5 to R4

1830 LM-6 reduced from R5 to R4

1836 LM-1 reduced from R5 to R4

1837 LM-2 reduced from R5 to R4 (high grade examples are still difficult, but lower grades abound)

1837 LM-3 reduced from R6 to R5 (high grade examples are still difficult, but lower grades are available)

Please note that these reductions in rarity estimates are not based solely upon the results of this one census, alone, but rather represent the collective information of several knowledgeable collectors who have made intensive studies of the availability of individual die marriages.

At the present time, and based upon the current census and reported known examples, there is just one die marriage (1835 LM-12) which still rates an R8 (3 known), but I believe that by the next half dime census this, too, will fall to R7 as additional examples are located by astute collectors.

For the first time I have presented rarity estimates on some of the scarcer remarriages as well. This was deemed to be both necessary and instructive, particularly for those rarest remarriages which are often misattributed. Collectors are admonished to carefully study the attribution information in the Logan/McCloskey book for these rare remarriages, and to pay particular attention to the remarriage charts beginning on page 65 of the L/M reference when attempting to attribute the 1829 LM-6.1, 1830 LM-1.1, 1832 LM-3.2, 1832 LM-3.3, 1832 LM-10.2 and 1832 LM-10.3 remarriages.

The accompanying chart represents the best method by which to tabulate *all* of the reported information, including specific remarriages as reported by participants, while at the same time maintaining the traditional listing of just the basic marriages. In the chart, the 92 basic die marriages are tabulated in the white boxes as a census of collections. The fifteen numbered vertical columns represent the fifteen largest and most complete collections reported, listed by JRCS membership number, in decreasing order of completeness, while the horizontal (white) rows represent the 92 basic LM die marriages (cross referenced to Valentine numbers). For those collectors who elected to report specific remarriages, those are reported in the gray boxes. For *all* collections, the highest grade specimen reported for any marriage which contains a remarriage is listed in the white box directly above the remarriages, and is included in the average grade calculation. Any examples of remarriages reported (including the highest grade specimen used in the average grade calculation) are tabulated in the gray boxes. This method of tabulation allows direct comparison of collections, by completeness and by average grade, regardless of inclusion of the remarriages, without unnecessarily reducing a collector's average grade if he elected to include the remarriages. The "TOTAL MARRIAGES" box represents the total number of generic marriages (of a maximum of 92) in a specific collection, while the "TOTAL REMARRIAGES" box represents the total number of remarriages (of a maximum of 50)¹ in a specific collection. The "AVERAGE GRADE" box is the calculated average grade *only for the 92 basic die marriages*, and does not include the remarriages.

At the right hand side of the chart are three columns designated "PCS", "AVG", and "MAX". These represent the total number of pieces reported (PCS) for a given marriage or remarriage, the average grade (AVG) for a given marriage or remarriage for all reported collections, and the highest grade reported (MAX) for a given marriage or remarriage, including smaller collections not listed, and duplicates not listed.

One aspect of half dime collecting that has all but disappeared from the present day Third-Party-Graded, plastic entombed, POP-1, investment crazed hobby is collecting by die state. Early half dime researchers such as Valentine and Reiver listed successive die states chronologically, designated with a lower case letter suffix, such as V3a, V3b, etc. Collectors familiar with Jules Reiver's "Variety Identification Manual" (VIM) for the Bust half dimes will recognize such designations for the various die states, whether very early (VEDS), middle (MDS), or very late (VLDS). The Logan/McCloskey "Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837" introduced us to the concept of remarriages, for which we shall all be grateful, but there is an important difference between remarriages and die states, and the two should not be confused. Any given marriage or remarriage can encompass numerous different die states. Most collectors can appreciate the appeal

of a very late die state, which results in a cud, but very few collectors recognize the importance of very early die states, some of which can be extremely rare. Consider such examples as the 1831 LM-1.1/V6, with S2 *not* filled, the 1834 LM-2/V1 with S2 *not* filled, or the 1835 LM-10/V7, also with S2 *not* filled. Although each of these examples incorporates a different reverse die, each is most often seen with the top loop of the second S of STATES filled, and very early die state examples, with S2 not filled, have proven to be extremely difficult to locate.

I wish to gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance of JRCS member and half dime aficionado Richard Meaney for his learned and erudite contributions, without whose input this census would be far less valuable.

1. There are a total of nineteen (19) die marriages for which there are *remarriages*. In those particular nineteen die marriages, the first marriage is designated LM-x.1, and the subsequent thirty one *remarriages* are designated LM-x.2, LM-x.3, etc. If we add the 31 *remarriages* to the 19 first marriages, the total number of die pairings listed with the decimal point designation is fifty (50).



1832 LM-8.2 Half Dime: A Rare Die Remarriage

Condition Census – Capped Bust Half Dimes 1829 – 1837

2011 CAPPED BUST HALF DIME CENSUS																					
DATE	L/M	V	R	323	LM47	326	LM56	LM13	411	824	1354	1057	869	19	835	1389	194	1301	PCS	AVG	MAX
1829	1	7	2	63	58	55	25	55	50	62	40	45	40	30			25		13	43.1	63
	2	3	1	63	58	55	45	50	62	40	30	12	45	40			40		14	40.4	63
	3	2	2	62	58	58	35	30	64	40	40	10	30	50		64	25		21	41	64
	4	13	3	63	45	62	35	58	63	58	20	10	20	30					13	42.6	63
	5	6	1	63	58	55	25	50	58	40	20	15	20	58		30			14	40.3	63
	6	5	5	64	58	58	62	45	62	50	30	15	25	45					12	46.2	64
	6.1		7	6			15												2	10.5	15
	6.2			45	50	58			55		8	10		45					10	37.6	58
	6.3			64	58	50	62	45	62	50	30	15	25						14	37.4	64
	7	4	4	64	65	58	45	58	50	50	30	20	25	50	12	8	40	66	16	42.6	66
	7.1			61	63	58			50	50	30	20	25						10	37.3	63
	7.2			64	53	45	40		40	30	30			50	12		40		11	38.5	64
	7.3			64	65	50	45	58	45	45	4	6				8		66	15	41.7	66
	8	17	6	61	45	45	6	50	30						35				8	39	61
	9	11	4	62	45	53	20	62	45	20	20	15	12	45	30				17	30.6	62
	10	16	4	64	61	63	12	55	62	20	40	12	45	50		8			17	34.5	64
	11	18	6	58	60	53	8	53	50	2	50								8	41.8	60
	12	10	6	62	40	58	15	55	50	50	12	3	20	35	40				13	36.9	62
	13	12	1	63	62	62	35	55	58	50	40	12	40	58	20	60		58	15	46.2	63
	13			62	55	62	35	55	58	40	40	12	30	58	20			58	15	41.1	62
	13			63	62	50			40	50	20		40	35		60			9	46.7	63
	14	9	4	61	62	55	50	61	50	40	40	30	10	40		55			13	43.5	62
	15	8	4	61	58	58	15	60	58	20	12	30	30	40	40				13	40.2	61
	15			61	58	58		60	40	20	12	30		40	40				10	41.9	61
	15			58	25	40	15		58			12	30						7	34	58
	16	14	2	64	55	62	35	63	60	55	20	12	55			64			11	49.5	64
	16			64	55	53	35	63	60	55	20	12							10	46.2	64
	16			63	45	62			58	20		10				64			7	46	64
	17	15	4	63	63	55	50	55	55			7	10	35	40			62	12	45.4	63
	18	1	4	58	53	58	40	58	58	12	20	7	15	40	50	4	25		21	31.1	58
1830	1	10	4	64	63	63	45	62	45	45	40	12	30	55	12	15		65	14	44	65
	1.1		6	8	61		40			35				55	12			65	8	35.5	65
	1.2			64	63	63	45	62	45	45	40	12	30			15		65	24	33.2	65
	2	9	3	65	55	55	58	50	63	30	45	20	53	50	40		30	66	20	40	66
	3	8	2	64	55	55	25	50	63	30	50	8	45	58			30		16	42.3	64
	4	3	2	63	58	59	45	50	63	45	58	12	12	60			30		13	47.8	66
	4.1			60	45	59	25	50		45	58	12	12	20			30		11	37.8	60
	4.2			63	58	45	45		63	20	50			60					9	51.7	63
	5	13	6	65	35	55	45	12							15				11	31.4	65
	6	4	4	65	66	58	25	63	58	8	50	8	55	55	25	10			20	37	66
	7	7	2	63	60	58	25	50	58	20	40	12	50		25	61			16	39.5	63
	8	6	1	61	53	58	45	45	58	40	58	12	30	55	40	50			13	46.5	61
	9	5	4	64	63	58	6	50	62	50	20	15	40	58	20	53		65	14	44.6	65
	9.1			64	63	58	6	15	62	30	20	8	40	58		12		65	15	38.1	65
	9.2			62	58	55		50	53	50		15	10	58	20	53			13	41.3	62
	10	12	6	53	55	61	55	35	25	12				20					9	40.7	61
11	14	6	58	40	53	55	25	15	30				20					10	34.3	58	
12	11	4	64	62	55	30	40	55	45	45	10	8	45			25	64	15	41.7	66	
13	2	3	60	55	58	62	55	45	62	40	10	35	53				66	12	50.1	66	
14	1	3	62	62	58	18	30	63	40	58	12	20	40	25				14	37.1	63	

Condition Census – Capped Bust Half Dimes 1829 – 1837

DATE	L/M	V	R	323	LM47	326	LM56	LM13	411	824	1354	1057	869	19	835	1389	194	1301	PCS	AVG	MAX
1831	1	6	1	63	65	58	40	55	60	40	50	10	45	40	30			58	13	47.2	65
	1.1			45	65	30					50		20	40	12				7	37.4	65
	1.2			61	40	50			60	40	12	10	35		30				10	34.6	61
	1.3			63	45	58	40	55	55	20	40		45	35				58	22	35.4	63
	2	7	3	65	55	60	35	55	62	45	35	12	20	20					22	42.5	65
	3	2	4	65	58	60	25	62	62	40	45	55	35	58	25			65	23	42.7	65
	4	4	2	63	62	61	12	40	64	45	12	8	45						11	43.5	66
	5	5	1	61	53	62	15	45	63	25	45	45	35		12	50	40		20	37.9	63
	6	1	1	64	66	62	50	58	61	30	45	15	58	58	20		30		23	48.1	66
7	3	2	63	63	58	8	50	58	62	40	12	50			55		65	14	48.1	65	
1832	1	10	4	63	40	55	35	58	64	12	55	12	45		30				15	38.1	64
	2	3	3	63	58	63	35	58	53	40	20	10	20						12	42.9	63
	3	1	1	62	58	58	8	55	50	50	20	45	45	50	12			58	19	42.2	62
	4	12	4	63	55	58	45	50	62	45	40	12	20	30	10			62	20	42	63
	5	8	1	64	53	58	45	62	60	50	63	10	45	45	20		40		38	36.8	64
	6	11	4	65	63	55	35	40	45	25	20	12	8	55	12	62	40		18	35.2	65
	7	9	2	64	58	55	35	45	63	45	45	15	58	50	20				21	42.3	64
	8	5	3	64	65	61	45	55	62	40	50	12	30	40	45		45	62	15	46.4	65
	8.1			64	65	58	20		60	40	50		30	40	12				12	46.6	65
	8.2		5	62	61	40			62					40	20				8	40.6	62
	8.3		5	45	55	61	45		50										7	46.6	61
	8.4			63	55	45	45	55	58	20	50	12		35	45		45	62	15	45.3	63
	8.5			61	62	40			45	15									6	40.5	62
	9	14	6	66	58	45	12	58	55	40	20			4					9	39.8	66
	9.1			66	55	45	12	58	55	40	20								8	43.9	66
	9.2		7		58									4					2	31	58
	10	13	3	65	63	63	35	50	50	40	8	20		50		40	40	65	13	45.3	65
	10			62	63	45			50	40	8	20				40	40		10	37.6	63
	10		6	45	45	25												65	5	40	65
	10		5	65	30	4	35							20					6	29	65
	10			64	30	63	25	50	20					50					13	39.2	64
	11	4	5	65	58	58	35	30	61	45	62	12	12	40					11	43.5	65
	11			64	45	58	35		30		4	12	12	40					14	24.9	64
	11			65	58	50	25	30	61	45	62			20					12	42.4	65
12	2	2	63	64	58	20	25	50	40	40	15	50	58	12	55	45		17	42.4	64	
13	6	3	63	58	61	25	58	55	60	20	15		20		25			14	44.2	63	
14	7	4	63	64	58	40	20	40	50	45	8	20	40					15	35.3	64	
1833	1	7	3	63	64	58	35	50	63	60	12	25	12	55			25		26	37.9	64
	2	9	6	62	55	55	25	55	40	12	20			12					11	35.5	62
	3	4	2	64	63	62	45	62	64	55	50	12	40		30			55	12	50.2	64
	3.1			64	63	62	45		53	55	12	12						55	10	43.1	64
	3.2			64	63	55		30	64	18		12	40						9	44.6	64
	3.3			61	58	55			63	55	50	12			25				8	47.4	63
	3.4			62	55	58		62	55	35	20								8	44.3	62
	3.5		7	50	40	35									30				4	38.8	50
	4	3	2	64	61	61	45	62	58	20	50	10		50		62			13	46.8	64
	4.1			64	58	50		55	45	20	50	10		50		62			14	45.3	64
	4.2			55	61	55	45		53										5	53.8	61
	4.3		5	45	45	61		62	58	12						58			11	41.9	62
	5	10	7	61		20					35								3	38.7	61
	6	8	6	64	50	55	20	63	62	20	12			35				58	12	41.4	64
	7	5	2	63	63	58	40	58	58	20	12	45	45	55	30				18	44.4	63
	8	2	3	62	45	58	10	55	40	45	40	10	15		20		45	66	17	40.8	66
9	6	2	63	58	55	12	63	63	55	40	20	45	40	30		40		17	41.7	63	
10	1	1	64	65	58	35	40	62	20	20	6	12		30			65	15	43	65	

Condition Census – Capped Bust Half Dimes 1829 – 1837

DATE	L/M	V	R	323	LM47	326	LM56	LM13	411	824	1354	1057	869	19	835	1389	194	1301	PCS	AVG	MAX	
1834	1	5	2	63	64	58	15	63	62	40	50	20	10	40				64	21	46.2	64	
	2	1	1	63	66	58	30	50	62	61	40	12	20	58	40		45		26	43	66	
	3	2	3	62	58	61	50	45	64	30	25	20	45		20	55			15	43.6	64	
	4	4	1	64	63	58	20	55	63	60	20	8	62		12	64		65	20	47.8	65	
	5	3	3	64	62	55	45	45	58	58	12	8				35			11	44.3	64	
1835	1	2	2	62	63	55	12	58	45	45	12	12	45	55	12	53	40		24	37.5	63	
	2	8	4	63	63	58	30	50	63	55	12	10	40	50	15	62			13	43.9	63	
	3	3	1	63	50	58	18	55	50	50	20	8	61	30	20	55	45		27	35.2	63	
	4	11	3	62	61	61	30	62	58	40	45	45	8	45	12	40	45		24	41.3	62	
	5	10	3	63	61	58	50	55	64	53	20	12	62	50	15	35	35		15	43	64	
	5.1			58	50	55	12	25	64	4	20	10	62		15	35			15	34.5	64	
	5.2			63	61	58	50	55	63	53	20	12	62	50	8		35		20	38.6	63	
	6	9	2	62	58	62	35	20	40	8	50	15	20	40	8				14	34.1	62	
	7	4	3	64	65	58	45	45	64	20	20	10	40	50	20	45			18	41.2	65	
	8	5	2	63	55	61	40	40	58	45	50	8	35	55	55	64	45	66	17	48.5	66	
	8.1			58	55	55	8		58	45	45	8	35		55				16	37.9	58	
	8.2			63	45	61	40	40	55	40	50			55		64	45	66	16	49.9	66	
	9	6	2	64	63	58	35	50	62	58	30	12	40	45	30	40			14	44.8	64	
	9.1			64	55	58	35	40	50	58	30	12	40	45	30	40			15	42.8	64	
	9.2			62	63	53	8	50	62	18				30					15	31.3	63	
	10	7	1	65	50	55	25	40	50	55	50	8	30	30	40	55	30		30	35.9	65	
	11	1	4	62	58	58	30	40	50	20	12	20	12	50	20	50	40		18	37.3	62	
12		8	45	35		4												3	28	45		
1836	1	5	4	66	64	58	20	63	35	40	30	12	15	50	12	40	30	66	16	40.7	66	
	1.1			50	55	55		58	20		30		10			10	30		15	30.3	58	
	1.2		4	66	64	58	20	63	35	40	12	12	15	50	12	40		66	31	26.2	66	
	2	1	3	62	58	55	50	55	55	40	30	20	55	50				65	17	48.6	65	
	3	4	1	63	66	55	45	45	58	45	12	12	20		4		25		24	37.5	66	
	4	2	2	66	55	58	45	30	50	50	40	6	30		12			66	14	40.2	66	
	5	6	2	66	55	61	40	60	64	40	40	12	40	53	30	45		65	26	40.6	66	
	6	3	3	61	55	58	25	50	53	40	40	7	53		12	62		66	19	44.6	66	
7	7	4	64	55	61	25	25	50	20	50	12	50	40	20				20	41.1	64		
1837	1	3	1	64	63	62	12	20	58	20	35	12	35	50	20		30	66	21	41.6	66	
	2	4	4	61	45	50	35	45	58	12	40	12	10	45		8			21	22.1	61	
	3	5	5	58	45	30	30	40	50	45	4		10	35	8		25		16	25.7	58	
	4	2	3	63	61	55	15	40	55	20	12	3	15	30	10			65	18	35.6	65	
	5	1	1	63	65	53	40	60	58	30	12	12	12			55		67	14	40.5	67	
TOTAL MARRIAGES				92	91	91	91	90	89	87	86	81	78	70	56	38	31	30	92 KNOWN			
AVERAGE GRADE				62.7	57.5	56.9	31.8	49.3	55.3	38.4	33.2	15	32.1	43.9	23.3	44.6	35.3	63.7				
TOT. REMARRIAGES				49	49	47	30	25	42	36	33	26	21	26	17	14	7	11	← See Note 1			



Second Specimen of the 1795 B-22, BB-29 Dollar Discovered

W. David Perkins, NLG

I would like to report the discovery of the second known example (to me) of the 1795 B-22, BB-29 Flowing Hair Dollar die marriage. With only two examples known, this die marriage remains a R-8.

This discovery was made by David Hatfield. The coin was offered unattributed on eBay in January 2009. David attributed the die marriage from the photos and was successful in winning the lot. The eBay lot was offered for sale by Port City Coin & Jewelry, Portsmouth, NH.

The first example of 1795 B-22, BB-29 was discovered around October 1997 by ANACS grader Charles Erb and was verified by ANACS Senior Numismatist Michael Fahey. The discovery was reported in a front page article by Paul Gilkes in Coin World November 3, 1997. The obverse die is the same as 1795 B-12, BB-11. The reverse die was new, described as follows:

Three leaves under each wing of eagle. There are six berries in each branch, a feature which is diagnostic among the three leaves type. The left branch has a vertical pair of berries below the left edge of the first S in STATES. There is only one berry on the left branch of the wreath between the eagle's wing and ribbon bow, and it is on the inside of the wreath. The right branch has a berry directly below the center of M in AMERICA, and two berries inside the wreath below the wing.

This Discovery Specimen was acquired by Jules Reiver in November 1997 (via dealer Julian Leidman). It remained in Jules' collection until it was sold as Lot #23482 in the Heritage Galleries and Auctioneers sale of The Jules Reiver Collection Volume III, January 24-28, 2006 in Dallas, Texas. This specimen is now part of the Warren Miller Collection, the only complete collection of all 118 different die marriages known. The Reiver-Miller Specimen was graded prior to the sale by NCS as having VF Details; this specimen is the finest known of the two examples that are known today.

David Hatfield followed this up with the discovery and acquisition of a new, low grade specimen of the R-7 1795 B-11, BB-12 Flowing Hair Dollar in December 2009, also on eBay.

The second example of 1795 B-22, BB-29 now resides in the collection JRCS Member #101. Congratulations to both David for his discoveries and to JRCS Member #101 for acquiring this extreme rarity for his collection.



Obverse of the second known example discovered of the 1795 B-22, BB-29 die marriage. The obverse die was also used in striking the very rare 1795 B-12, BB-11 die marriage. Note that this coin was holed and plugged at 12:00 on the obverse (BE of LIBERTY).



Reverse of the newly discovered example of 1795 B-22, BB-29. There are three leaves under each wing of the eagle, coupled with six berries in each branch. The plugged hole can be seen at 6:00 on the reverse.



Examination and Analysis of Delivery Warrants and Reported Mintages of Draped Bust Half Dollars of 1801 to 1807

Bradley Higgins

June 30, 1801

To the Officers of the Mint,

The director having waited now several weeks in hopes of a fresh supply of bullion but being disappointed and in prospect of no success for some time, orders the several officers of the mint to meet together and agree upon a discharge of every hand that can be spared, giving them one week's notice to engage themselves elsewhere.

Elias Boudinot, Director of the Mint

This pronouncement set the tone for the commencement of production of draped bust heraldic eagle half dollars. It was a time of 'make do' at the mint with manpower reduced to a minimum and any unnecessary expenses to be shunned. This state of mind had an impact on how mint staff made decisions that affected mintage numbers which has not been fully examined.

The Half Dollars of 1801

Coinage commenced late in the summer and the first delivery was made in August, followed by two deliveries in December, all of which were most likely O.101. The reverse die failed early on and virtually all examples surviving today exhibit a group of lumps in the lower left quadrant. These flaws were not considered to be sufficiently severe as to warrant a replacement die.

The Half Dollars of 1802

Production commenced early on with a delivery of 7910 coins on January 26th. The obverse die of 1801 was paired with a new reverse die to produce these coins. The obverse was still able to impart a decent impression and with a limited quantity of silver to convert to coinage, it didn't make sense to produce a new obverse die.

Production wasn't resumed until late in the year with two deliveries in December. A new pair of dies was produced but only the obverse was placed into service with the new reverse being shelved for a year and a half and the reverse die from January being returned to the press. This results in a mintage of 38,199 1801 dated coins and 21,980 1802 dated coins, very much in line with the current disparity in availability noted today between the two dates.

The Half Dollars of 1803

Production began again in late summer with deliveries made between August 29th and September 14th for a total of 31,715 coins, all most likely of the O.101 die marriage, as there is no known example of reverse die failure and the obverse was used extensively the following year. Following this, Director Boudinot ordered the mint closed due to another outbreak of yellow fever. All coins, bullion, and clippings were to be delivered to the First Bank of the United States for safe keeping, good dies were boxed and also sent to the bank, and spoiled dies were ordered destroyed so that no use could be made of them in case of theft. A list of all material sent to the bank was left with the Director's clerk. Bullion deposits were resumed on November 1st, 1803.

The Half Dollars of 1804

With the cessation of dollar coinage, more resources were devoted to half dollars and mintage figures soared to 156,519. Deliveries commenced on April 11th and occurred steadily with none in October and two more in November.

Many have wondered about the lack of 1804 dated coins but the speculation has not been as fanciful as that surrounding the 1804 dollars. It is simply that production was limited and the obverse die today referred to as the 'Large 3' held up remarkably well and was used to the point that little detail remained. The obverse currently referred to as 'Small 3' was most likely made when the mint reopened in November 1803 and was pressed into service later in the year (1804) after the 'Large 3' die was spent. Two 1804 dies were subsequently produced but never used in 1804, although the 1805/4 wide date (O.103) may not be an overdate so much as a blundered date, but that subject will be treated in another paper.

The Half Dollars of 1805

This year presents some challenges. While mintage increased to 211,722 from 156,519, the number of dies required to coin this quantity of silver rose dramatically to seven obverse and nine reverse dies compared to two of each for 1804. For the first time since 1795, cuds were a plague, causing one obverse and five reverse dies to fail. Coinage began in January with the first delivery of 30,000 coins recorded on February 2nd. Assigning particular die marriages to the different deliveries is perilous as uncertainty arises with the increased die usage; however, using the chart from the John Reich Journal volume 20, issue 1, a very approximate picture emerges.

Combining this with the emission sequence presented in JRJ volume 20, issue 3, we can divine the following:

Date	Warrant #	Quantity	DM	# of Coins Assigned to DM
2/4/1805	330	30,000	O.113	7,233
			O.112	22,767
2/9/1805	331	4,000	O.112	4,000
2/19/1805	332	5,490	O.112	5,490
2/22/1805	333	5,998	O.112	5,998
3/6/1805	334	5,900	O.112	5,900
4/8/1805	339	7,000	O.112	7,000
4/17/1805	340	1,940	O.112	1,940
			O.111	2,843
4/25/1805	344	4,000	O.112	1,157
			O.111	2,843
4/29/1805	345	7,000	O.111	7,000
6/7/1805	347	4,000	O.111	4,000
8/3/1805	353	14,000	O.111	14,000
8/13/1805	354	20,500	O.111	20,500
8/20/1805	355	16,700	O.111	5,908
			O.101	10,792

Date	Warrant #	Quantity	DM	# of Coins Assigned to DM
10/8/1805	359	12,190	O.101	12,190
10/30/1805	360	7,948	O.101	2,335
			O.102	5,613
11/24/1805	361 2	4,000	O.102	19,704
			O.110	3,617
			O.107	679
11/27/1805	362	10,500	O.107	2,938
			O.114	145
			O.108	7,233
			O.104	184
12/4/1805	363	11,000	O.104	4,879
			O.103	3,255
			O.105	2,682
12/6/1805	364	2,236	O.105	935
			O.106	1,301
12/31/1805	370	17,000	O.106	5,932
			O.109	11,068

Again, it is important to remember that this table is very approximate, is subject to rounding errors, and assumes too much about rates of attrition. It is accurate only in the broadest sense. Also, it demonstrates that dies created from the new obverse hubⁱ were not deployed until very late in the year, and that die failure late in the year was an especially serious issue.

The Half Dollars of 1806

Silver deposits were dramatically higher in 1806 and mintages rose accordingly. 839,576 coins were minted using 13 obverses and 21 reverses. Cuds were again a problem from the beginning with most of the round top 6's failing thus. A huge technological leap forward began with implementation of the 'frustum atop cylinder' designⁱⁱ replacing the 'cylinder atop cylinder' dies, which eliminated the problem with

cuds. It is the opinion of the author that the new dies were first deployed with the new pointed 6, as the first few marriages struck failed due to radial cracks which formed early on, a new phenomenon. The final cud known to exist on a draped bust half dollar can be found on O.111, and probably used an older unused reverse die.

To attempt to assign die marriages to a particular delivery for this year is an exercise in futility as there are many common marriages for which it is impossible to even guess at total numbers coined. However if one must, using the emission sequence with the delivery chart will give a very approximate idea of when a particular marriage was coined.

The Half Dollars of 1807

Coinage of half dollars did not commence early on, with the first delivery of 2000 coins on March 2nd. The press was then employed frequently and production exceeded one million coins for the first time. John Reich was hired as assistant engraver on April 1st with the directive to redesign the nation's coinage. The traditional mintage figure of 301k for draped half dollars was derived by combining the delivery totals for March thru May, the assumption being that Reich would have prepared hubs and dies of the new design by this time. The truth is that no one knows today when the capped bust half dollars were first struck; it is likely that Reich began by redesigning the half eagle, then proceeded to the half dollar. The chart with deliveries provides no clues. It was not perceived as an important event and there is no known surviving documentation which would give us a hint. Today we can only guess when the changeover happened, and if surviving numbers are any clue, then the commencement of the capped design took place later in the summer, perhaps August or September.

ⁱ See Master Die and Hub Changes for 1801-1807 Half Dollars, and Integration with 1799-1804 Gold Eagle Reverses by Bill Nyberg, JRJ 18/2.

ⁱⁱ See The Early U.S. Coining Dies in the ANS Collection by Craig Sholley, COAC, 11/1996 Chart with deliveries and warrants copied from Bullion and Waste journals, NARA, Philadelphia, PA.



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